

Dkt. No: GONZR-P01
Appln. No.: 10/671,977
Reply to Office action of 04/20/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims outstanding in this application are Claims 1, 8-11, 14-17, 20-37, and 40-64 for a total of three independent claims and 52 total claims; Claims 12-13 and 38-39 having been previously cancelled and Claims 2-7 and 18-19 having been cancelled in the amendment.

In consideration of the amendments made above and the remarks which follow, applicant hereby respectfully traverses all rejections and objections and requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims currently pending in this application.

Claim 1 was amended to make the clarification suggested by the Examiner as to the "second rod". Claim 1 was also rewritten to include all the elements and limitations of allowable Claim 19, and limitations of any intervening claims [i.e., Claim 18], thereby rendering Claim 1 allowable. As Claims 8-11 and 14-17, and 20-22 either directly or indirectly devolve and depend from, Claim 1, such claims are also allowable.

The Examiner allowed Claims 23 through 60. Kindly note that the Examiner referenced that the highest numbered claim pending in this application was Claim 60 when in fact the highest numbered claim was Claim 64 with Claims 61-63 in between. Claims 60-64 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 45. Inasmuch as Claim 45 was allowed, applicant requests that Claims 61-64 be included in the recitation of pending claims and that such claims be allowed.

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Claim 20 was amended to reflect its current dependency from Claim 1 inasmuch as Claim 19, from which it previously depended, was canceled and incorporated into Claim 1.


5 Claim 32 was amended to correctly reflect that it depends from Claim 30, not from Claim 32.

Claim 34 was amended at the second line to properly reflect the word "base" rather than the word "based".

10 Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks made herein and issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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